

OLAP Capabilities for a PPM Product

Client: Leading provider of PPM Solutions
Location: USA

Client Description

The client is a leading provider of project and portfolio management software that enables Fortune 1000 companies to efficiently manage, source and deliver professional services for major projects and initiatives.

Business Need

Following the release of the first version of their product, the client received feedback from their customers who were from diverse industries and had a growing database. This feedback primarily suggested the need for a number of reports that would provide users with key information related to their ongoing projects. As a consequence, the client then decided to build OLAP capabilities into the product.

Blue Star Infotech was entrusted with development of this capability into the product and also for providing enhancements through future releases.

Solution Offered

Blue Star Infotech (BSI) enriched the product with extensive analysis and reporting capabilities, using the Microsoft OLAP Server and Analysis Services. These Services integrate the Office Web Components Pivot Services to display the Analysis as Pivot Chart/Tables in MS Office 2000.

After the initial release, the team carried out optimization of the OLAP architecture by rewriting the cube structure.

Newer versions of the product have been developed with a scalable architecture for OLAP where the cubes are processed with current data or incremental load as per definition by the customer. An inbuilt scheduler helps in planning the time for upload and processing. The subsequent versions are slated to contain document routing capabilities as well.

TECHNOLOGY

- Windows NT, Windows 2000
- MS-Exchange
- MS SQL SERVER 7, SQL SERVER 2000 with Analysis Services, Office Web Components, and Oracle
- Visual Interdev, Visual Studio
- Languages: VC++, VB, HTML, XML/XSL
- COM/DCOM development VC++ and VB
- OWC – Office Web Components
- Web: ASP, HTML, DHTML, JavaScript and VBScript
- Development Tools: Visual Interdev Database Tools: Erwin
- Configuration Tools: SourceSafe

Benefits to the Client

- The client was able to leverage BSI's extensive knowledge of both their product as well as OLAP capabilities. This minimized the effort on their part in providing this feature and also enabled them to meet their market needs with minimum investments.
- Based on its past experiences in creating similar capabilities, BSI was able to recommend and build additional capabilities which ensured that the product users were able to find, navigate and leverage the underlying information with ease.

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